

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method ~~of utilizing a general purpose computer for network route control, the method~~ comprising the steps of:

utilizing a general purpose computer for network route control: said utilizing further comprising:

establishing a connection between said general purpose computer and an arrangement for linking said computer to multiple internet service providers (ISPs);

measuring relevant performance and availability metrics of said links at said general purpose computer; and

making a routing control decision at said general purpose computer prior to sending a packet comprising network traffic;

wherein said general purpose computer makes the routing control decision to direct the packet to a an outgoing link based upon said relevant performance and availability metrics.

2. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein said connection is accomplished through Multi-protocol Label Switching (MPLS) switched paths.
3. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein said connection is accomplished through Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) tunnels.
4. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein said connection is accomplished using Internet protocol (IP)-level tunnels.
5. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability metric is network delay.
6. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability metric is network loss.
7. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability metric is network throughput.
8. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability metric is application-layer response time.
9. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of measuring relevant performance and availability metrics comprises making passive measurements, wherein the general purpose computer utilizes applications running on the general purpose computer to measure the relevant performance metrics in an application-specific manner.

10. **(Currently Amended)** ~~An apparatus permitting a~~ A general purpose computer to perform route control, the apparatus comprising:

an arrangement for establishing a link between a general purpose computer and multiple internet service providers (ISPs);

an arrangement allowing said general purpose computer to measure at least one relevant performance and availability metric of said links; and

an arrangement allowing said general purpose computer to make a routing control decision prior to sending a packet comprising network traffic;

wherein said general purpose computer makes the routing control decision to direct the packet to ~~a~~ an outgoing link based upon said at least one relevant performance and availability metric.

11. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said link is accomplished through Multi-protocol Label Switching (MPLS) switched paths.

12. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said link is accomplished through Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) tunnels.

13. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said link is accomplished using internet protocol (IP)-level tunnels.

14. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the relevant performance metric is network delay.

15. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the relevant performance metric is network loss.

16. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the relevant performance metric is network throughput.

17. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the relevant performance metric is application-layer response time.

18. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 10 wherein the arrangement allowing the computer to measure at least one relevant performance and availability metric comprises an arrangement for making passive measurements, wherein the arrangement for making passive measurements allows the general purpose computer to utilize applications running on the general purpose computer to measure the at least one relevant performance metric in an application-specific manner.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps ~~for general purpose computer route control, said method comprising the steps of:~~

utilizing a general purpose computer for network route control: said utilizing further comprising:

establishing a connection between said general purpose computer and an arrangement for linking said computer to multiple internet service providers (ISPs);

measuring relevant performance and availability metrics of said links at said general purpose computer; and

making a routing control decision at said general purpose computer prior to sending a packet comprising network traffic;

wherein said general purpose computer makes the routing control decision to direct the packet to a an outgoing link based upon said relevant performance and availability metrics.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein a label is utilized to direct the packet to a best link.